

## House Resolution 340

By: Representatives Marin of the 96<sup>th</sup>, Brooks of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Taylor of the 55<sup>th</sup>, Benfield of the 85<sup>th</sup>, Gardner of the 57<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that the President and Congress of the United States adopt a national holiday to  
2 celebrate the occasion of Mr. César E. Chávez's birthday on March 31, 2009, and recognizing  
3 his many great contributions to society; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, from humble beginnings in 1927, Mr. César E. Chávez, founder of the United  
5 Farm Workers, rose to be a major force in American history, making him a heroic figure of  
6 the 20th Century; and

7 WHEREAS, through personal sacrifice, Mr. Chávez focused national attention on the plight  
8 of farm workers, making the world aware of the necessity for safe and fair working  
9 conditions in the fields of our nation; and

10 WHEREAS, millions of Americans from across the nation of all races and nationalities  
11 joined him in the movement for farm workers' rights; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Chávez was also a champion for civil rights, labor rights, voting rights, and  
13 women's rights and was an early environmentalist, warning the public of the devastating  
14 effects of pesticides on both farm workers and consumers; and

15 WHEREAS, as a result of these and other valuable contributions, nine states now celebrate  
16 César E. Chávez's birthday, March 31, as a holiday, including California, Arizona, Texas,  
17 New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin; and

18 WHEREAS, countless schools, streets, libraries, and other public institutions have been  
19 named after César E. Chávez, and many cities have honored him by establishing an official  
20 city holiday on his birthday; and

21 WHEREAS, the life of Mr. Chávez, who, like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was an adherent  
22 of nonviolent civil disobedience, serves as a model for all Americans; and

23 WHEREAS, the César E. Chávez National Holiday organization, based in Los Angeles,  
24 California, is spearheading a national effort to win support for a national holiday and day of  
25 service, learning, and action to be established on his birthday, March 31; and

26 WHEREAS, the Georgia Latino Forum unanimously passed a similar resolution supporting  
27 the César E. Chávez National Holiday effort at its 2nd Annual Meeting on January 26, 2008,  
28 as did the Council of Columbus, Georgia, on October 7, 2008; and

29 WHEREAS, the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO), the GALEO  
30 Latino Community Development Fund, and the GALEO Leadership Councils held a historic,  
31 multiracial, and multiethnic rally in support of the César E. Chávez National Holiday effort  
32 on March 31, 2008, at the state capitol, the inaugural rally for annual events to be held in  
33 Georgia to honor César E. Chávez.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
35 the members of this body join together to call on the United States Congress and President  
36 Obama to establish an official federal holiday and day of service, learning, and action for Mr.  
37 César E. Chávez on his birthday, March 31, each year in honor of his exemplary work on  
38 behalf of farm workers, civil rights, labor rights, and women's rights.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body agree to celebrate the life of  
40 Mr. Chávez by engaging in service, learning, and community actions that represent his  
41 legacy on his birthday, March 31, and all through the year.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
43 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the César E. Chávez  
44 National Holiday organization.